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## **Markey, King Introduce National Cigarette Fire Safety Legislation**

*Bill Endorsed By Fire Service and Public Health Communities*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Rep. Peter King (R-NY), a senior member of the Financial Services Committee, will officially announce the introduction of H.R. 4155, “the Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004,” a bill that will set a reasonable, national ignition standard for cigarettes. This bipartisan legislation would require that cigarettes be manufactured to meet a “self-extinguishing” standard that will help to prevent an estimated 800 deaths, 2,200 injuries and nearly \$560 million dollars in damages caused by cigarette ignited fires every year, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Congressman Markey said, “It is common knowledge that smoking is considered one of the nation’s leading causes of preventable death, but it’s less widely known that cigarettes are also the leading cause of fatal fires. Both New York state and Canada have passed cigarette fire safety standards that are due to go into effect this summer. However, New Yorkers and Canadians should not be the only ones who are protected from these little torches. Everyone in the United States deserves the same level of protection from fires caused by cigarettes. We can no longer tolerate losing one more innocent child or putting one more firefighter at risk in a fire that could have been prevented.”

Congressman King stated “Far too often innocent children, senior citizens, and firefighters risk their lives every day rushing into cigarette ignited fires. To prevent this and save thousands of lives, we must set a reasonable, national ignition standard for cigarettes. This legislation will do just that.”

The Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004 (H.R. 4155) has 43 bipartisan co-sponsors and been endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts, National Association of State of Fire Marshals (NASFM), the National Volunteer Fire Council, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), The Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI), The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, The American Burn Association, the New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, and the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York.

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